



REDMOND'S FIRST SCHOOL BELL

THE BELL ON THE 1892 SCHOOLHOUSE

Redmond's first school bell is made of cast iron with a 30" diameter. It was made sometime between 1885 and 1889 and may have been purchased secondhand for the 1892 schoolhouse. The stamp "CIN BELL CO" on the mounting bracket indicates its manufacturer, the Cincinnati Bell Company of Ohio.

PHOTO:
EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER

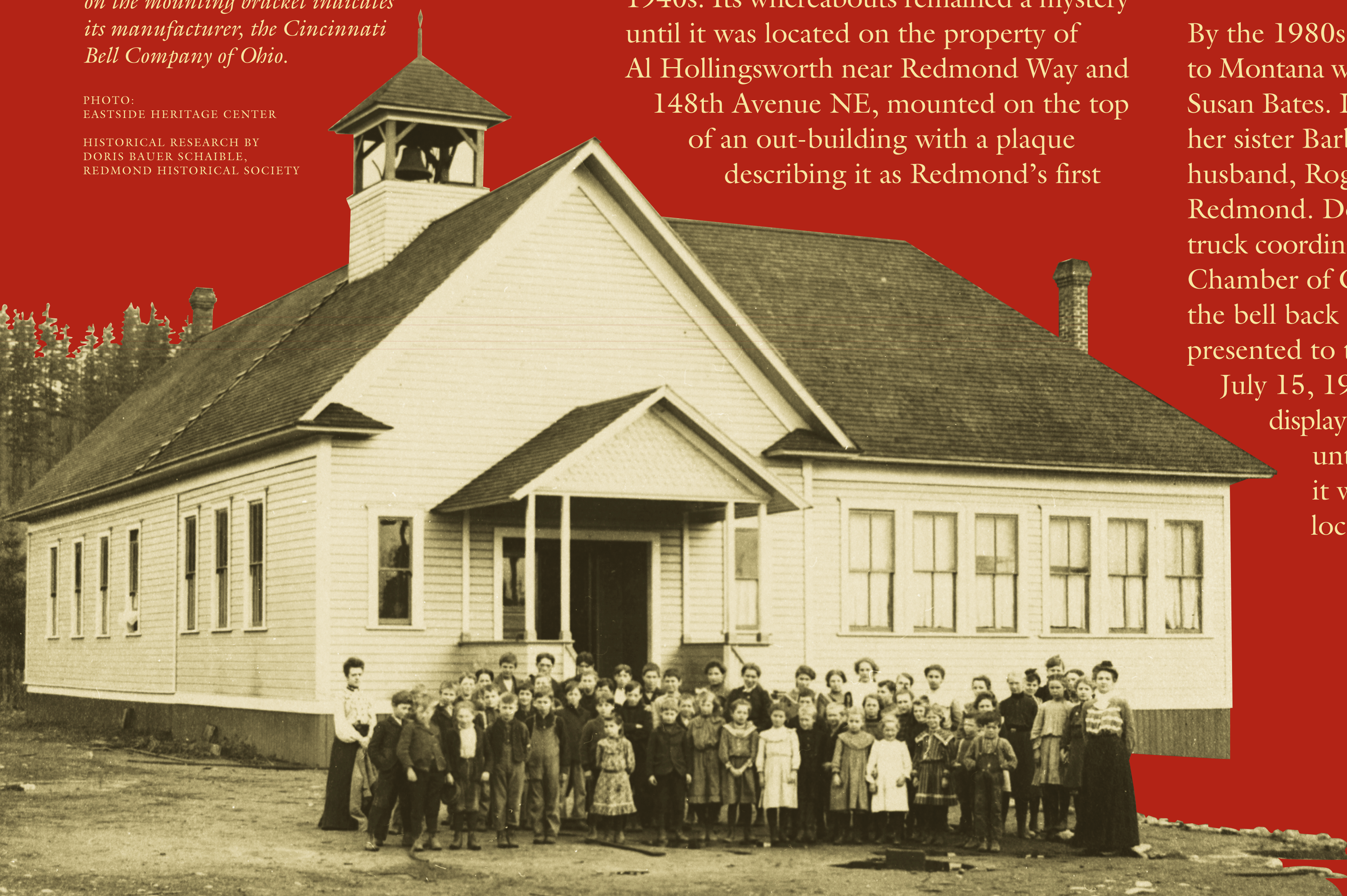
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Redmond's first school was a simple log cabin built in 1875. Between 1888 and 1892 classes were held in the Congregational Church. It wasn't until 1892 that a new one-room school was built at what is now Anderson Park. It was at this school that Redmond mounted its first school bell, seen here. The fact that a small community comprised largely of farmers and loggers raised money to purchase a bell for the schoolhouse demonstrates the pride and importance placed on schooling early in our city's history.

In the ensuing years, fires destroyed several school buildings but the community rebuilt each time, and the bell likely remained at the site until 1929 when all school activities moved to the Redmond School on NE 80th Street. The bell then disappeared until the 1940s. Its whereabouts remained a mystery until it was located on the property of Al Hollingsworth near Redmond Way and 148th Avenue NE, mounted on the top of an out-building with a plaque describing it as Redmond's first

school bell. Long-time community members remember it being rung at a rally held for the 1952 election of Dwight D Eisenhower. When Floyd and Jeanne Messer, the property owners at the time, moved in 1964, the bell went with them.

By the 1980s, the bell had made its way to Montana with one of the Messer's nieces, Susan Bates. In 1988 Susan gave the bell to her sister Barbara Feldman, who with her husband, Roger, donated it to the City of Redmond. Donations of gas money and a truck coordinated by the Greater Redmond Chamber of Commerce helped transport the bell back to Redmond where it was presented to the City in a ceremony on July 15, 1988. The bell remained on display on the front steps of City Hall until 2000. After refurbishment, it was moved to its current location in 2008.



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